

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A working vehicle propelled by independently driven right and left running units, comprising:

a body frame;

a front wheel unit for supporting said body frame in cooperation with said right and left running units;

an engine mounted on said body frame;

a left stepless transmission for receiving torque input from said engine;

a right stepless transmission for receiving torque input from said engine;

a left reduction mechanism for decelerating and transmitting torque output from said right stepless transmission to said right running unit;

a left base block supported by said body frame, said base block forming a housing base for said left stepless transmission and a housing base for said left reduction mechanism; and

a right base block supported by said body frame, said base block forming a housing base for said right stepless transmission and a housing base for said right reduction mechanism.

2. (Currently Amended) A working vehicle as defined in claim 1, wherein said stepless transmission is formed as an HST and said left base block is formed as a port block for said left HST, said housing base for the left HST defining ~~hydraulic ports~~ a hydraulic port, and said right base block is formed as a port block for said right HST, said housing base for the right HST defining ~~hydraulic ports~~ a hydraulic port.

3. (Previously Presented) A working vehicle as defined in claim 1, wherein said right and left blocks are formed as thick-walled plates, said housing base for said HST being formed on a surface, inwardly of the vehicle body, of each of said plates, and said housing base for said reduction mechanism being formed on a surface, outwardly of the vehicle body, of each of said plates.

4. (Previously Presented) A working vehicle as defined in claim 1, wherein said body frame extends longitudinally of the vehicle body, and has a pair of right and left first sub-frames in form of plates and a pair of right and left second sub-frames in form of plates, said first sub-frames having front ends connected to said front wheel unit, and rear ends connected to said base blocks, said second sub-frames being also connected to said base blocks.

5. (Previously Presented) A working vehicle as defined in claim 1, wherein said left base block acts as a left leg fixing base for fixedly supporting a left leg of a ROPS, and said right base block acts as a right leg fixing base for fixedly supporting a right leg of said ROPS.

6. (Previously Presented) A working vehicle as defined in claim 5, wherein said right and left blocks are formed as thick-walled plates, said right and left legs of said ROPS being fixed to surfaces, outwardly of the vehicle body, of the right and left plates.

7. (Previously Presented) A working vehicle as defined in claim 2, wherein said HST is set such that an output rotation speed is lower than an input rotation speed for an entire shift range.

8. (Previously Presented) A working vehicle as defined in claim 7, wherein said HST includes a pump and a motor, and is constructed such that, for the entire shift range, an oil delivery rate per rotation of said pump is lower than an oil drain rate per rotation of said motor.

9. (Canceled)

10. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said right and left stepless transmissions is an HST and each said HST being set such that an output rotation speed is lower than an input rotation speed for an entire shift range.

11. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said right and left base blocks has a rear axle support.

12. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 11, wherein each of said rear axle support includes a recess formed in the respective base block.

13. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 12, wherein each of said rear axle support further includes a bearing mechanism mounted to the respective recess.

14. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 11, wherein each of said right and left stepless transmission has a hydraulic pump and, wherein each of said right and left base blocks has a support portion for an input shaft of respective hydraulic pump.

15. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 14, wherein said support portion includes a recess formed in the respective base block.

16. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 1, wherein said housing base for said left stepless transmission closes an opening of a housing for said left stepless transmission, and housing base for said left reduction mechanism closes an opening of a housing for said left reduction mechanism, and wherein said housing base for said right stepless transmission closes an opening of a housing for said right stepless transmission, and housing base for said right reduction mechanism closes an opening of a housing for said right reduction mechanism.

17. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 1, wherein said left stepless transmission is mounted to the left base block at a position offset from said left reduction mechanism, and wherein said right stepless transmission is mounted to the right base block at a position offset from said right reduction mechanism.

18. (New) A working vehicle propelled by independently driven right and left running units, comprising:
a body frame;

a front wheel unit for supporting said body frame in cooperation with said right and left running units;

an engine mounted on said body frame;

a left stepless transmission for receiving torque input from said engine;

a right stepless transmission for receiving torque input from said engine;

a left reduction mechanism for decelerating and transmitting torque output from said left stepless transmission to said left running unit;

a right reduction mechanism for decelerating and transmitting torque output from said right stepless transmission to said right running unit;

a left base block supported by said body frame, said base block forming a housing base for said left stepless transmission, a housing base for said left reduction mechanism, and a recess for supporting an axle of the left running unit;

a right base block supported by said body frame, said base block forming a housing base for said right stepless transmission, a housing base for said right reduction mechanism and a recess for supporting an axle of the right running unit.

19. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 18, wherein a bearing mechanism is mounted to each of said recesses formed in respective base block.

20. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 18, wherein each of said base block is an integral one piece member.

21. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 20, wherein each of said right and left stepless transmission has a hydraulic pump and wherein each of said right and left base blocks has a recess for supporting an input shaft of respective hydraulic pump.

22. (New) A working vehicle propelled by independently driven right and left running units, comprising:

a body frame;

a front wheel unit for supporting said body frame in cooperation with said right and left running units;

an engine mounted on said body frame;
a left stepless transmission for receiving torque input from said engine;
a right stepless transmission for receiving torque input from said engine;
a left reduction mechanism for decelerating and transmitting torque output from said left stepless transmission to said left running unit;
a right reduction mechanism for decelerating and transmitting torque output from said right stepless transmission to said right running unit;
a left base block supported by said body frame, said base block forming a housing base that closes an opening of a housing for said left stepless transmission and a housing base that closes an opening of a housing for said left reduction mechanism; and
a right base block supported by said body frame, said base block forming a housing base that closes an opening of a housing for said right stepless transmission and a housing base that closes an opening of a housing for said right reduction mechanism.

23. (New) A working vehicle as defined in claim 22, wherein each of said right and left stepless transmissions is an HST and said HST being set such that an output rotation speed is lower than an input rotation speed for an entire shift range.